

Union Calendar No. 175

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 2232

[Report No. 105-303]

A BILL

To provide for increased international broadcasting
activities to China.

OCTOBER 6, 1997

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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H. R. 2232

[Report No. 105-303]

To provide for increased international broadcasting activities to China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 1997

Mr. ROYCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

OCTOBER 6, 1997

Additional sponsors: Mr. COX of California, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. FOWLER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. HYDE, Mr. BOB SCHAFER, Mr. KING, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SPENCE, and Ms. PELOSI

OCTOBER 6, 1997

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 23, 1997]

A BILL

To provide for increased international broadcasting activities to China.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Radio Free Asia Act*
3 *of 1997”.*

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 *The Congress makes the following findings:*

6 (1) *The Government of the People’s Republic of*
7 *China systematically controls the flow of information*
8 *to the Chinese people.*

9 (2) *The Government of the People’s Republic of*
10 *China demonstrated that maintaining its monopoly*
11 *on political power is a higher priority than economic*
12 *development by announcing in January 1996 that its*
13 *official news agency Xinhua, will supervise wire serv-*
14 *ices selling economic information, including Dow*
15 *Jones-Telerate, Bloomberg, and Reuters Business, and*
16 *in announcing in February of 1996 the “Interim*
17 *Internet Management Rules”, which have the effect of*
18 *censoring computer networks.*

19 (3) *Under the May 30, 1997, order of Premier Li*
20 *Peng, all organizations that engage in business activi-*
21 *ties related to international computer networking*
22 *must now apply for a license, increasing still further*
23 *government control over access to the internet.*

24 (4) *Both Radio Free Asia and the Voice of Amer-*
25 *ica, as a surrogate for a free press in the People’s Re-*
26 *public of China, provide an invaluable source of un-*

1 *censored information to the Chinese people, including*
2 *objective and authoritative news of in-country and re-*
3 *gional events, as well as accurate news about the*
4 *United States and its policies.*

5 *(5) Radio Free Asia currently broadcasts only 5*
6 *hours a day in the Mandarin dialect and 2 hours a*
7 *day in Tibetan.*

8 *(6) Voice of America currently broadcasts only*
9 *10 hours a day in Mandarin and 3½ hours a day*
10 *in Tibetan.*

11 *(7) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America should*
12 *develop 24-hour-a-day service in Mandarin, Canton-*
13 *ese, and Tibetan, as well as further broadcasting ca-*
14 *pability in the dialects spoken in the People's Repub-*
15 *lic of China.*

16 *(8) Radio Free Asia and Voice of America, in*
17 *working toward continuously broadcasting to the Peo-*
18 *ple's Republic of China in multiple languages, have*
19 *the capability to immediately establish 24-hour-a-day*
20 *Mandarin broadcasting to that nation by staggering*
21 *the hours of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America.*

22 *(9) Simultaneous broadcasting on Voice of Amer-*
23 *ica radio and Worldnet television 7 days a week in*
24 *Mandarin are also important and needed capabilities.*

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR IN-**
 2 **CREASED FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE ASIA**
 3 **AND VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTING TO**
 4 **CHINA.**

5 (a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO*
 6 *FREE ASIA.*—

7 (1) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—

8 *There are authorized to be appropriated for “Radio*
 9 *Free Asia” \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and*
 10 *\$22,000,000 for fiscal year 1999.*

11 (2) *LIMITATIONS.*—

12 (A) *Of the funds under paragraph (1) au-*
 13 *thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998,*
 14 *\$8,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for*
 15 *one-time capital costs.*

16 (B) *Of the funds under paragraph (1),*
 17 *\$700,000 is authorized to be appropriated for*
 18 *each such fiscal year for additional personnel to*
 19 *staff Cantonese language broadcasting.*

20 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR INTER-*
 21 *NATIONAL BROADCASTING TO CHINA AND NORTH KOREA.*—

22 *In addition to such sums as are otherwise authorized to*
 23 *be appropriated for “International Broadcasting Activi-*
 24 *ties” for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized*
 25 *to be appropriated for “International Broadcasting Activi-*
 26 *ties” \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and \$7,000,000 for*

1 *fiscal year 1999, which shall be available only for enhanced*
 2 *Voice of America broadcasting to China and North Korea.*

3 (c) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RADIO*
 4 *CONSTRUCTION.—*

5 (1) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In*
 6 *addition to such sums as are otherwise authorized to*
 7 *be appropriated for “Radio Construction” for fiscal*
 8 *years 1998 and 1999, there are authorized to be ap-*
 9 *propriated for “Radio Construction” \$10,000,000 for*
 10 *fiscal year 1998 and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 1999,*
 11 *which shall be available only for construction in sup-*
 12 *port of enhanced broadcasting to China.*

13 (2) *LIMITATION.—Of the funds under paragraph*
 14 *(1) authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998,*
 15 *\$3,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated to facili-*
 16 *tate the timely augmentation of transmitters at*
 17 *Tinian, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana*
 18 *Islands.*

19 (d) *ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be ap-*
 20 *propriated for “International Broadcasting Activities”, the*
 21 *Director of the United States Information Agency and the*
 22 *Board of Broadcasting Governors shall seek to ensure that*
 23 *the amounts made available for broadcasting to nations*
 24 *whose people do not fully enjoy freedom of expression do*

1 *not decline in proportion to the amounts made available*
2 *for broadcasting to other nations.*

3 *(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR NORTH KOREA.—Of*
4 *the funds under subsection (b), \$2,000,000 is authorized to*
5 *be appropriated for each fiscal year for additional person-*
6 *nel and broadcasting targeted at North Korea.*

7 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

8 *Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of*
9 *this Act, in consultation with the Board of Broadcasting*
10 *Governors, the President shall prepare and transmit to Con-*
11 *gress a report on a plan to achieve continuous broadcasting*
12 *of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America to the People's*
13 *Republic of China in multiple major dialects and lan-*
14 *guages.*

15 **SEC. 5. UTILIZATION OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL**
16 **BROADCASTING SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SERV-**
17 **ICE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING FUGI-**
18 **TIVES FROM UNITED STATES JUSTICE.**

19 *United States international broadcasting services, par-*
20 *ticularly the Voice of America, shall produce and broadcast*
21 *public service announcements, by radio, television, and*
22 *Internet, regarding fugitives from the criminal justice sys-*
23 *tem of the United States, including cases of international*
24 *child abduction.*